

Amendment s to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An exercise machine, comprising:

a frame;

a first treadle having a belt, a treadle frame, and a pair of rollers located on opposite ends of the treadle frame, the belt positioned about the pair of rollers;

a second treadle having a belt, a treadle frame, and a pair of rollers located on opposite ends of the treadle frame, the belt positioned about the pair of rollers; and

[[a]]at least one pair of flanges upwardly extending from said frame and [[a]]at least one rod extending through the treadle frames other than at the rollers and through the at least one pair of flanges such that the first and second treadles are supported to pivot about the at least one rod relative to the frame near respective rear ends during exercise use in response to a user's weight.

10. (Currently Amended) An exercise machine, comprising:

a frame;

a first treadle having a belt, a treadle frame, and a pair of rollers located on a first and second end of the treadle frame, the belt positioned about the pair of rollers;

a second treadle having a belt, a treadle frame, and a pair of rollers located on a first and second end of the treadle frame, the belt positioned about the pair of rollers; and

means for pivotally coupling said treadle frame-frames to the frame at a point-position between the first and second ends of the treadle-frame frames such that the first and second

treadles are supported to pivot about said position relative to the frame near respective rear ends.

11. (Currently Amended) An exercise machine, comprising:

a frame;

a first treadle having a belt, a treadle frame, and a set of three rollers defining a triangular shape, the belt positioned about the set of rollers;

a second treadle having a belt, a treadle frame, and a set of three rollers defining a triangular shape, the belt positioned about the set of rollers; and

means for pivotally coupling the treadle first and second treadles to the frame at a location respectively between [[the]] ends of [[the]] treadle-surface surfaces defined by the first and second treadles such that the first and second treadles are supported to pivot relative to the frame near respective rear ends.

12. (Original) The exercise machine of claim 11, wherein the set of three rollers includes an upper pair of rollers and a lower roller, said lower roller pivotally connected with said frame.

13 - 175. (Canceled)

176. (Original) An exercise apparatus comprising:

a frame;

a first movable belt treadle assembly having a first belt, a first drive roller, and first and second rollers;

wherein the first drive roller and the first and second rollers are disposed in a first generally inverted triangular arrangement with the first drive roller being at the apex of the first triangular arrangement;

wherein the first belt is disposed about the first drive roller and the first and second rollers;

wherein the first movable belt treadle assembly is pivotally mounted to the frame in proximity to the first drive roller;

a second movable belt treadle assembly having a second belt, a second drive roller, and third and fourth rollers;

wherein the second drive roller and the third and fourth rollers are disposed in a second generally inverted triangular arrangement with the second drive roller being at the apex of the second triangular arrangement;

wherein the second belt is disposed about the second drive roller and the third and fourth rollers; and

wherein the second movable belt treadle assembly is pivotally mounted to the frame in proximity to the second drive roller.

177. (Original) The exercise apparatus of claim 176 further comprising:

first and second pivot brackets attached to the frame;

a motor coupled to the frame;

a drive shaft, the first and second drive rollers being affixed to the drive shaft and the drive shaft being rotatably coupled to the pivot brackets to provide a pivot for the first and second treadle assemblies; and

a torque transfer mechanism coupling the drive shaft to the motor.

178. (Original) The exercise apparatus of claim 176 further comprising:

a first dampening device coupled between the frame and the first movable belt treadle assembly;

a first biasing device coupled between the frame and the first movable belt treadle assembly;

a second dampening device coupled between the frame and the second movable belt treadle assembly;

a second biasing device coupled between the frame and the second movable belt treadle assembly; and

a reciprocating linkage coupled between the first movable belt treadle assembly and the second movable belt treadle assembly.

179. (Original) The exercise apparatus of claim 178 wherein:

the frame comprises an upright;

the first dampening device and the first biasing device are integrated into a first unitary device coupled between the upright and the first movable belt treadle assembly; and

the second dampening device and the second biasing device are integrated into a second unitary device coupled between the upright and the second movable belt treadle assembly.

180 - 251. (Canceled)

252. (Currently Amended) An exercise device, comprising:

a frame;

a first treadle including a first belt, a first treadle frame, a first front rotation axis adjacent a first end of the first treadle frame, and a first rear rotation axis adjacent a second end of the first treadle frame, the first belt positioned about the first front rotation axis and the first rear rotation axis;

a second treadle including a second belt, a second treadle frame, a second front rotation axis adjacent a first end of the second treadle frame, and a second rear rotation axis adjacent a second end of the second treadle frame, the second belt positioned about the second front rotation axis and the second rear rotation axis;

wherein the first treadle frame is pivotally coupled with the frame at a first pivot axis between the first front rotation axis and the first rear rotation axis such that the first treadle is supported to pivot relative to the frame near its second end about the first pivot axis; and

wherein the second treadle frame is pivotally coupled with the frame at a second pivot axis between the second front rotation axis and the second rear rotation axis such that the second treadle is supported to pivot relative to the frame near its second end about the second pivot axis.

253. (Original) The exercise device of claim 252, wherein the first treadle frame is pivotally connected with the frame in alignment with the first front rotation axis and the first rear rotation axis.

254. (Original) The exercise device of claim 252, wherein the first treadle frame is pivotally connected with the frame below the first rear rotation axis.

255. (Original) The exercise device of claim 252, wherein the first treadle frame is pivotally connected with the frame at a first pivot point and wherein the first front rotation axis, the first rear rotation axis, and the first pivot point define three points of a triangle.

256. (Original) The exercise device of claim 252, wherein the first treadle includes a first roller rotatably supported at the first front rotation axis and a second roller rotatably supported at the first rear rotation axis; and

wherein the second treadle includes a first roller rotatably supported at the second front rotation axis and a second roller rotatably supported at the second rear rotation axis.

257. (Original) The exercise device of claim 256, wherein the first roller of the first treadle includes a first axle rotatably supported on the first treadle frame at the first front rotation axis, and the second roller of the first treadle includes a second axle rotatably supported on the first treadle frame at the first rear rotation axis; and

wherein the first roller of the second treadle includes a first axle rotatably supported on the second treadle frame at the second front rotation axis, and the second roller of the second treadle includes a second axle rotatably supported on the second treadle frame at the second rear rotation axis.

258. (Currently Amended) An exercise device comprising:

a first frame assembly defining a first front rotation axis and at least one rear rotation axis, the first frame assembly adapted to pivot about a first pivot axis near the at least one rear rotation axis thereof,

a first tread belt operably supported on the first frame assembly for rotation about the first front rotation axis and the at least one rear rotation axis;

a second frame assembly defining a second front rotation axis and the at least one rear rotation axis, the first frame assembly adapted to pivot about a second pivot axis near the at least one rear rotation axis thereof;

a second tread belt operably supported on the second frame assembly for rotation about the second front rotation axis and the at least one rear rotation axis; and

wherein the first pivot axis is located between the first front rotation axis and the at least one rear rotation axis and the second pivot axis is located between the second front rotation axis and the at least one rear rotation axis.

259. (Original) The exercise device of claim 258, wherein the at least one rear rotation axis comprises a first rear rotation axis and a second rear rotation axis.

260. (Original) The exercise device of claim 259, wherein the first rear rotation axis and the second rear rotation axis are in substantially longitudinal alignment.

261. (Original) The exercise device of claim 259, wherein the first pivot axis is in a plane in common with the first front rotation axis and the first rear rotation axis.

262. (Original) The exercise device of claim 259, further comprising a first rear roller operably supported along the first rear rotation axis.

263. (Original) The exercise device of claim 262, further comprising a second rear roller operably supported along the second rear rotation axis.

264. (Original) The exercise device of claim 258, wherein the first pivot axis is below the at least one rear rotation axis.

265. (Original) The exercise device of claim 264, wherein the second pivot axis is below the at least one rear rotation axis.

266. (Original) The exercise device of claim 258, wherein the first pivot axis and the second pivot axis are in substantially longitudinal alignment.